and greywater, and research on water storage.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when water shortages are becoming more commonplace in our Nation, I applaud the bipartisan work of the Science Committee under the leadership of Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL on this important legislation. They understand the need for us to work across the aisle on these important issues, and I commend them both for their leadership.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 631.

DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 738, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2009. This legislation would mandate prompt reporting of prisoner and immigration detainee deaths in state and local prisons to the Attorney General. Under current law, many families of prisoners and detainees often do not receive timely information regarding deaths in custody. An inmate death in a local and state correctional facility is a serious matter that deserves full reporting to family members as well as federal regulators so that a full and transparent investigation can take place into the causes and circumstances surrounding a death. I applaud this Congress's action on this critical issue and would hope that I can work with my colleagues to implement widespread reform in our Nation's prison system.

For too long, America has turned a blind eye to abuse and neglect in our prisons and detention centers. In particular, immigration prisons have been the focus of great concern as recent deaths in facilities in Virginia and my home state of Rhode Island have made the need for transparency as important as ever. Immigration detainees, many of whom have neither been charged nor convicted of a criminal act and are in custody awaiting a hearing or deportation, often do not receive timely or adequate health care. Others are indiscriminately transferred thousands of miles away from family members and legal counsel. These issues must be addressed in our ongoing efforts to reform our prison system. This legislation lays the groundwork for those reforms and I applaud Chairman SCOTT's leadership on this issue.

I thank Chairman SCOTT, and I would urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 117, to ''support the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and for other purposes.''

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 117 recognizes the need to support the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week and its aims to increase understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers and to promote literacy in math and science; and will work with the engineering community to make sure that the creativity and contribution of that community can be expressed through research, development, standardization, and innovation.

New discoveries and technologies are changing the way Americans live and work. Through dedicated research and development, engineers expand our knowledge and lay the foundation for the progress of our country. This week is an opportunity to recognize engineers for their many contributions to our way of life and to encourage young people to pursue their curiosity by studying math and science.

Engineering education began in America under circumstances that differ substantially from those of the other leading professions. Medical schools, for example, were established by individual physicians, and then loosely affiliated with universities.

By contrast, engineers were first trained by apprenticeship, particularly on canal construction projects. This tradition was perpetuated on railroad construction projects, and later in factories and machine shops, long after college engineering programs were established. Eventually, engineering schools in the United States were sponsored by the federal government (the U.S. Military Academy in 1802) and the land-grant colleges (beginning in 1862). They were also fostered by public-spirited citizens who fostered the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and from within established universities in response to interest or demand.

The engineering workforce is the driver of society's technological engine, an awesome responsibility. We will not be able to address this responsibility without diversifying the pool of science and engineering talent. This broadening of participation must come from The Land of Plenty, our mostly untapped potential of underrepresented minorities and women—America's ''competitive edge'' for the 21st century.

We know that more than any other species, humans are configured to be the most flexible learners. Humans are intentional learners, proactive in acquiring knowledge and skills. And, it turns out that we are more successful learners if we are mindful or cognizant of ourselves as learners and thinkers.

The revolution in information technologies connected and integrated researchers and research fields in a way never before possible. The nation's IT capability has acted like 'adrenaline' to all of science and engineering. A next step is to build the most advanced computer-communications infrastructure for researchers to use, while simultaneously broadening its accessibility.

The great state of Texas boasts excellent schools that produce many of the nation's outstanding engineers. Texas Tech University's Whitacre College of Engineering is an internationally recognized research institution ranked among the best in the country. The Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University is one of the largest engineering colleges in the nation, with nearly 9,000 students and 12 departments. Texas A&M University ranks among the top five producers in the country for undergraduate engineering degrees. Prairie View A&M University's College of Engineering has a rich and well established legacy of producing some of the most outstanding engineers, computer scientists and technologists in the nation.

To date, our knowledge of the ''science of learning,'' is just the tip of the iceberg of what we have yet to learn. Our ultimate goal is truly not to waste a single child and to teach and train a workforce that is well prepared and can adapt and change.

I thank my colleague, Rep. DANIEL LIPINSKI, of Illinois, for introducing this important resolution, to ensure that we continue to cultivate the understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers that will be quite beneficial to society. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend and colleague, JOHN DINGELL for becoming the longest serving Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. DINGELL's service is unparalleled. For 53 years, he has worked diligently for the American people and his legislative accomplishments are unparalleled. Serving alongside Chairman DINGELL, I've come to know why he has earned the deep respect and admiration of scores of House Members, Senators and 11 different Presidents.

A true champion of health care reform, JOHN DINGELL has been at the center of every major health policy reform of the last 50 years. In 1965, he was central to the creation of Medicare, a program that saves millions of elderly Americans from the horrors of poverty and disease every year. Continuing his fight for a healthier country, JOHN has worked on behalf of children, the poor, and many others who can't afford quality heath care and has been a visionary in authoring legislation to ensure affordable health care for all.

Today JOHN DINGELL broke a record, but that record won't be why we remember him. It will be his character, his accomplishments, and his unyielding belief that this institution can make a positive impact in the lives of everyday Americans. Today JOHN DINGELL made history, but his lasting legacy will be how he has shaped the history of a great nation through a lifetime of public service.

I consider it one of the true privileges of my lifetime to know JOHN DINGELL as a colleague, a mentor and a close personal friend. His wisdom and his example of leadership will continue to make a difference for American families long after we here are long gone. God bless JOHN DINGELL and the love of his life, his wife, Debra.